

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 104615

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OP/GSA/FACKERSON

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S E C R E T STATE 104615

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, NATO

SUBJECT: CEP: INDUSTRIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE (PC) REPORT ON
CIVIL/MILITARY COOPERATION: AMMUNITION LEAD-TIME STUDY

REF: USNATO 2432

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 104615

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. US CONCURS WITH POSITION OF IPC IN AC/143-D/358 THAT FINDINGS OF THE LEAD-TIME STUDY REPORT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL WITHOUT RECOMMENDING A COURSE OF ACTION. WE AGREE WITH THE NETHERLANDS THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE ADVICE OF COMPETENT MILITARY AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES. RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARAGRAPH 3 REFTEL PROPOSE A CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITY UNDER LEAD-TIME STUDY WHICH IPC HAS CONCLUDED WOULD BE LITTLE BENEFIT WITHOUT COUNCIL AGREEMENT THAT THE STUDY SHOULD PROCEED, WITH SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO MEMBER NATIONS THAT THIS EFFORT IS ESSENTIAL. IT WOULD APPEAR, THEREFORE, TO BE INAPPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH 3 REFTEL.

2. THE MAJOR PROBLEM IS TO DETERMINE A MEANS OF ELIMINATING THE GAP IN THE SUPPLY/DEMAND FOR MUNITIONS AS UNCOVERED

BY THE LEAD-TIME STUDY. SOME POSSIBLE AREAS OF INVESTIGATION OR ACTION TO CLOSE THIS GAP ARE STANDARDIZING MUNITIONS AND OTHER MATERIEL; CONSIDER A NATO POOL OF CONSUMMABLES AS PROPOSED BY ITALIAN PAPER WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A REVERSAL OF NATO DOCTRINE OF NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOGISTICS SUPPORT; INCREASING WAR RESERVE STOCK LEVELS; BY UNDERTAKING INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS MEASURES; OR COMBINATIONS OF THE ABOVE. OTHER POSSIBILITIES, AFTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY COMPETENT CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE PROPOSED.

3. IN THE OPINION OF THE U.S. THE IMPORTANT STEP AT THIS TIME IS TO ALERT THE COUNCIL OF THE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION AND RECEIVE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION FOR FURTHER WORK.

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